



# THE SEARCH & RESCUE DOG PROTECTION ACT

CONGRESSMAN VAN TAYLOR

Every day, first responders, law enforcement, and rescue organizations rely on search and rescue (SAR) dogs in times of crisis.

These skilled dogs, trained and cared for by volunteers, can locate missing people, assist at crime scenes, and save lives. After their dog is certified, volunteer handlers dedicate even more time and resources traveling the United States to save lives.

However, when called into service, SAR teams face many obstacles. Aside from the difficulties of their mission, these highly skilled canines are not offered the same protections as service animals and SAR dog handlers often have difficulty locating hotels or restaurants that will allow them to bring their dog.

The **Search and Rescue Dog Protection Act** will provide search and rescue teams with the same convenience and protections currently given to service animals by allowing FEMA-certified search and rescue dogs to stay in commercial lodging establishments or go with their handler to a restaurant free of charge and without discrimination when traveling to, or operating within, a Federally Declared Disaster Area. In doing so, this commonsense legislation will facilitate getting highly-skilled Search and Rescue dogs to disaster areas and allow these talented dogs to save even more lives.

*For more information on the Search and Rescue Dog Protection Act, please contact Congressman Van Taylor's office at (202) 225-4201.*



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